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BETTING AND GAMBLING: A National Evil. Edited by B. Seebohm Rowntree. London: Macmillan & Co. L.; New York; The Macmillan Co., 1905. Pp. xii, 250.

There is probably no more useful work on the whole subject of Betting and Gambling than the present volume. One conclusion which it constantly enforces is that the gambling habit is, at the present time, as pervasive a feature of social life and as potent a source of social danger as the habit of intemperance to the evils of which the social reformer is much more widely awake. The comparison leads one to think of this book in connection with the volume on "The Temperance Problem and Social Reform" by Mr. Joseph Rowntree and Mr. Arthur Sherwell; and it must be said at once that, in wealth of statistical information and thoroughness of execution, it cannot stand comparison with that monumental work. But the comparison would be hardly fair, as the plan of this book excludes thoroughness, though it is many-sided, informative, and suggestive. It consists of nine essays by eight different hands on different aspects of its problem, and it contains several valuable appendices, a bibliography, and an index.

The first essay, on the "Ethics of Gambling," by Mr. J. A. Hobson, published in this JOURNAL, January, 1905, is of most interest to the philosophical student. Gambling is defined as "the determination of the ownership of property by appeal to chance;" and this appeal to chance is regarded as a "deliberate reversion" to the conduct and outlook of the savage:

"Gambling involves the denial of all system in the apportionment of property; it plunges the mind in a world of anarchy, where things come upon one and pass from one miraculously. It does not so manifestly sin against the canons of justice as do other bad modes of transfer—theft, fraud, sweating—for every one is said to have an equal chance; but it inflicts a graver damage on the intellect. Based as it is on an organized rejection of all reason as a factor, it removes its devotees into a positive atmosphere of miracles, and generates an emotional excitement that inhibits those checks which reason more or less contrives to place upon emotional extravagances. The essence of gambling consists in an abandonment of reason."

There is no doubt that Mr. Hobson goes to the root of the matter; and his analysis is worked out with great ability. But I am not sure that his view is comprehensive enough. It would cover the case of the "backer" of horses (who seems always to lose in the

long run), but hardly of the bookmaker (who is pretty safe to win). Perhaps Mr. Hobson would refuse to call the latter a gambler—simply a business man with an anti-social trade, who knows that trade. But throughout a great deal of gambling, skill modifies chance. In whist or bridge, for example, the result of every rubber depends far more on luck than it does on “play;” and yet the regular player may count on his skill being rewarded. Is he not a gambler because he can be pretty sure of making an income out of his game? Take the young lady, mentioned in another essay, who could do with a small dress allowance because she “was such a good bridge player that she easily made £1000 a year.” It would be strange to say that this young lady did not gamble, and equally unjust to charge her with “an abandonment of reason.” It was in order to allow for cases of this sort that, in this JOURNAL (“Betting and Gambling,” Vol. xiii, July, 1903,) I ventured on a somewhat different analysis of gambling from that set forth in Mr. Hobson’s able and interesting paper.

Mr. Hawke, the Secretary of the National Anti-Gambling League, contributes two valuable essays on the “Extent of Gambling,” and on “Existing Legislation.” It is impossible to summarize these essays, though a few sentences may be quoted. “The most disquieting feature (as regards betting) is its spread among the wage-earning classes.” “The twenty or so bookmakers of the beginning of the century grew into an army of twenty thousand.” “One of these retail men who was not given to boasting admitted that his business had a turnover of £250,000.” “The estimate adopted by Sir R. Giffen . . . of £5,000,000 per annum as going into the pockets of bookmakers,” is a very conservative one. “The gigantic monetary interest of the postoffice in the betting system.” Still more serious is the assertion, in the article on Existing Legislation, that it was by “a collusive civil case” being “trumped up” that the Court of Appeal and House of Lords overruled the decision of the (Criminal) High Court by which a ring was held to be a “place” within the meaning of the act of 1853. “Unhappily,” says the writer, “it must be added that such a black page of disgrace would not have defaced our law reports but for private and influential pressure brought to bear upon certain members of the courts.” This latter statement is almost incredible.

Mr. A. J. Wilson, in an article on Stock Exchange Gambling, has less hope of improvement from legislation than Mr. Hawke. He does, indeed, blame the £1 share for facilitating gambling in

stock. But the disease is "incurable, especially in a society constructed with such all-pervading artificiality as ours." "Against the force of human passions no Stock Exchange can hope to war with success."

The other articles must be mentioned more shortly. Mr. J. A. Hogge writes on "Gambling Among Women;" Canon Horsley on "Crime and Gambling;" a Bookmaker on "The Deluded Sportsman"—a most entertaining discourse. The article on "Gambling and Citizenship" by Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald is disfigured by the class-agitators' endeavor to blame the rich for the faults of the poor, as well as for their own faults. He is also guilty of spoiling by misquotation the well-known and magnificent lines of the Marquis of Montrose.

The volume would have been more complete had it included a paper on gambling in schools. There is incidental evidence in the present essays that systematic opportunities are offered to the young to acquire the gambling habit early in life. These facilities find their way into some, at any rate, of our large public schools: though schoolmasters say little about them, and perhaps do not know very much.

The work closes with a thoughtful paper on "The Repression of Gambling," by the editor, who concludes by stating his "belief that the solution of the gambling evil, as of many other social evils, will never be permanently effected without a great deepening of the moral and spiritual life of the nation."

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SOME ETHICAL GAINS THROUGH LEGISLATION. By Florence Kelley. Citizens' Library. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1905.

In the borderland where ethics, economics and politics meet, most of the social problems of the future will have to be worked out. The day of the natural rights of the individual has gone by, and modern students are trying to define, in terms of social utility, a new series of distinctly social rights. Under present economic conditions, such rights can with difficulty be securely established except as they are embodied in well-enforced legislation.

Mrs. Kelley's book is a successful attempt to define four of these social rights, and to show how far they have been embodied in the